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PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

INK JET PRINTER

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Abstract

PURPOSE:

To prevent the drying of ink at a nozzle, the blocking and staining of the nozzle, and intermixture of air bubbles into the nozzle by providing a nozzle to jet ink using for cleaning the nozzle cap in addition to the exclusive nozzle for printing.

CONSTITUTION:

A high voltage is applied to a piezo-electric element 29a, and ink is jetted from a nozzle 3b which is used exclusively for cleaning and does not take part in printing. Ink is trapped at the tip end of the nozzle 3b, and while flowing the ink, the tip end of the nozzle 3a is cleaned by the cleaner 24a of the nozzle cap 21 turning in the direction of arrow. Fresh ink is further flowed out of the nozzle 3b. By repeating such a cleaning operation, highly viscous ink, dried ink, dust, etc., adhered to the tip end of the nozzle 3a can be completely cleaned up, thus ensuring the proper performance of the ink jet head.
